

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 11-12 have been allowed.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 4 have been rejected as being anticipated by Becker (US Pat. No. 5,168,809) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found in Fig. 1 and the corresponding description in the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia:

a turning device including a sheet support assigned to said transfer cylinder for receiving the sheet thereon before the sheet is transferred to the second impression cylinder, and an inverting drum disposed in a travel direction of the sheet between said sheet support and the second impression cylinder, said inverting drum serving

for picking up the sheet from said sheet support and transporting the sheet to the second impression cylinder;

the sheet being transferred from the first impression cylinder to said transfer cylinder and from said transfer cylinder to the second impression cylinder during a one-sided printing operation;

the sheet being transferred from said transfer cylinder to said sheet support and from said sheet support to the second impression cylinder through said inverting drum during a turning operation.

Becker shows a turning device disposed between two impression cylinders 1 and 2, in which the sheets to be printed are transported by three drums - transfer drum 5, storage drum 4, and turning drum 3 - disposed one after another in both one-sided and two-sided printing operations. The sheet-guiding device 18 is assigned to the storage drum 4 and supports the sheets during turning process.

In contrast to Becker, the path described by the sheet in the turning operation by the turning device of the invention of the instant application is parallel to the path taken by the sheet in the one-sided printing operation. Therefore, the turning device - the sheet support (8) and the inverting drum (9) - according to the invention of the instant application is located outside of the cylinders (2, 3, and 4) that participate in the one-sided printing.

Clearly, Becker does not show "the sheet being transferred from the first impression cylinder to said transfer cylinder and from said transfer cylinder to the second impression cylinder during a one-sided printing operation; the sheet being transferred from said transfer cylinder to said sheet support and from said sheet support to the second impression cylinder through said inverting drum during a turning operation," as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over Becker and since claim 4 is dependent on claim 1, it is believed to be patentable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the penultimate paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 2-3 and 5-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable as discussed above and claims 2-3 and 5-10 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable in dependent form. A rewrite is therefore believed to be unnecessary at this time.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the last paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 11-12 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted

  
For Applicants

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